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Patent

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : M. Belley, et al.

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Serial No. : 09/097,537

Case 19548YDA

Art Unit: 161 OCT 14 1998

Filed : June 15, 1998

Examiner: MATRIX-CUSTOMER  
SERVICE CENTERFor : (METHYLSULFONYL)PHENYL-2-(5H)-  
FURANONES AS COX-2 INHIBITORS

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

DEC 10 1998

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT MATRIX-CUSTOMER  
SERVICE CENTER

Dear Sir:

The following citations are being submitted under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56 and 1.97 in order to comply with the duty of disclosure. Their inclusion herein shall not, however, be construed as an admission that any particular cited reference is effective prior art or that it discloses or renders obvious any aspect of the claimed invention.

Applicant submits that the references listed on Form PTO 1449 taken alone or in any reasonable combination neither anticipate nor render obvious the present invention. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 to evidence consideration of the disclosed references.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date appearing below.

MERCK &amp; CO., INC.

By Richard Dij Date 10/7/98

[ ] the attached information is filed within three months of the filing date of the captioned case.

[ ] the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

[ ] the undersigned certifies that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated under 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the statement.

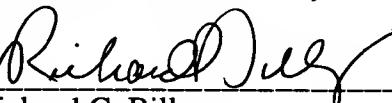
[X] in that this reference is being submitted prior to the mailing of the first Action on the merits, no fee is due.

[ ] further to Information Disclosure Rule 97(c) applicants authorize payment of the fee set forth under 1.17(p). The fee may be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Any additional fees required in connection with this submission may be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

The Examiner is invited to contact the attorney for applicant at the telephone number provided below if such would advance the prosecution of this application. Applicant respectfully requests early examination and Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Richard C. Billups  
Reg. No. 31,916  
Attorney for Applicant

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